11: Haguenauer--39-40 T-3 (no date) 1929 Formosan Aborigines
116, 349, 727, 769 Atayal

The clean skull was placed in the midst of a collection of them which the Tayal kept on a special set of shelves that was erected a little outside each village. The new addition was covered with a little roof of leaves, and offerings of millet and millet wine were placed in front of it. The village chief and the members of the expedition gathered in front of the shelves and summoned the spirit of the victim. They asked it to descend by a "spirit ladder" which was placed at one of the ends of the shelves; it consisted of a short bamboo stem to which skeins of hemp had been fastened at various intervals to serve as rungs. When the spirit had come down, they invited it to eat and drink with them. And then they requested it to be kind to them, and to invite [40] the spirits of the members of its family to come and join it. In this way the warriors ensured the success of the next expedition.

19: Guérin and Bernard--557 G-3 (ca. 1866) 1868 Formosan Aborigines
116, 224, 349

The aborigines have places to rest when they are hunting or traveling; they are huts which are fashioned of tree branches and ferns.

50: Ruey E-5 (1955) 1955
AD1 Formosa
Formosan Aborigines AD4
Atayal

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(2) Starting to build—After the site has been chosen, the owner digs the ground one time with a hoe, then goes back to his old house to seek for a dream omen. If he sees a wounded or sick person in the dream, it is considered as an evil omen. If he sees many animals and crops, it is considered as a good omen. When a good dream is secured, he will start to build his new house the next day.

(3) Erecting the posts and making the frame of the house—When the site is cleared, he starts to erect the posts. To built a house of only one room, six posts will be erected; to build a house of three rooms, twelve. The upper end of the post is cut into a ㄇ-shape for resting the ridge or beams. The lower part of the post is to be buried in the earth. After the posts have been erected, the ridge pole and beams are rested on them and tied to them. This makes the frame of the house.

(4) Covering the roof—Atayal houses are mostly topped with a gable-roof. Most of the roofs are made of bamboo, though a few of them are made of tin-plates.

(5) Making the walls—Walls may be made of bamboo, or may be of wicker-work pasted over with mud which is tempered with grass. Some of the latter kind are whitewashed.

The entrance is an opening of one meter in width and less then two meters in height. The leaf of the door is a piece of wooden plank or bamboo wickerwork. Most of the doors have only one leaf. Mostly the orientation of the door is facing the valley, because the house is built on the slope.

The window is an opening 40–50 centimeters in width and 60–70 in length. The leaf of the window is a wooden plank or a piece of wickerwork which is the same as the door. Glass is very seldom used.

After the above memtioned processes are completed, a fire place and one or two beds will be added, these complete the house building.

2. Types of house

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The author has dividied the houses of these villages into the following types according to the material used:

(1) Houses with bamboo roofs and bamboo walls;

(2) Houses with bamboo roofs and mud-wickerwork walls;

(3) Houses with bamboo roofs and partly bamboo walls and partly mud-wickerwork walls.

3. Annexes

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Other kinds of buildings besides dwelling house are:

(1) Farm-huts;
(2) Hunting-huts;
(3) Granaries;
(4) Chicken huts;
(5) Pigsties;
(6) Cow-huts;
(7) Compost house;
(8) Privies;
(9) Bee hives;
(10) Drying frames.